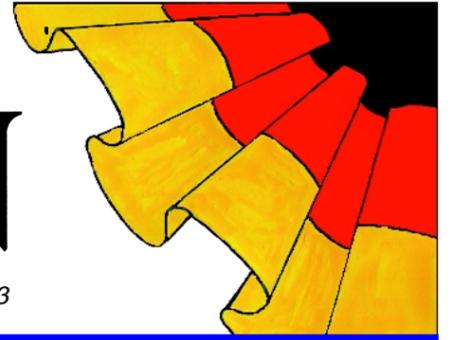


THE CITIZEN



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The 6th Area Support Group Newspaper

April 8, 2003

Stuttgart, Bad Aibling, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany



A contingent of anti-war protesters forms part of a 6,000-person ring around Patch Barracks March 29. Though the U.S. military action in Iraq has resulted in a series of protests near Stuttgart-area military installations, local security officials say a solid working relationship with their German counterparts ensures the security of U.S. property and personnel.

Protest encircles Patch

German, American security forces unite to ensure demonstration remains peaceful

Story & photo by Hugh C. McBride

Though much has been made in the international press of reported tension between the governments of the United States and Germany, events such as a March 29 protest at Patch Barracks demonstrate that in Stuttgart the spirit of German-American cooperation is alive and well.

The latest in a series of demonstrations against military action in Iraq, the March 29 gathering brought an estimated 6,000 people to the Patch perimeter, where protesters conducted a scheduled peace vigil that included forming a circle around the installation and briefly blocking traffic on Hauptstrasse, which leads to the Patch front gate.

While a crowd of that size gathered for any reason would give security forces cause for concern, a cooperative effort between German and American personnel ensured that the event progressed as planned and concluded without incident.

Maj. Hans Hunt, 6th Area Support Group Provost Marshal, said such a positive outcome is the result of an "excellent" working relationship between

'We get spectacular support from the Polizei.'

Maj. Hans Hunt
6th ASG Provost Marshal

his department and his counterparts with the local *Polizei*. "Any time we find out about a protest or demonstration, we are immediately in contact with the *Polizei* to coordinate our actions," Hunt said.

As the event nears, he said, PMO and *Polizei* personnel meet daily to coordinate their actions and refine their plan for managing the gathering.

Liaison officials from the German and American sides ensure that the units are functioning as one team by the time the event takes place, he said.

Though installation security can never be taken for granted, Hunt said one aspect is a sure thing: "We get spectacular support from the *Polizei*."

INSIDE THIS EDITION

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Patch cadets learn, act, serve

Under the guidance of Chief Warrant Officer Jack Goldman, students in the PHS Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps learn to plot a course toward their futures.



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How to help support troops

Online or in person, community members with a desire to help have a variety of options. Local and global groups need volunteers to help support service members in the field and on the mend.



FROM THE EDITOR

As this edition of The Citizen was being sent to press, U.S.-led coalition forces were, in the words of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, "closer to the center of the Iraqi capital than many American commuters are to their downtown offices."

In Kaiserslautern, Army Pfc. Jessica Lynch was resting after what was termed "successful surgery" in Landstuhl Regional Medical Center one day after her dramatic rescue from captivity in an Iraqi hospital.

And CNN was reporting that U.S. troops were in control of Baghdad's Saddam International Airport.

So why, then, are anti-war protesters on the front page of The Citizen?

For one reason, in addition to providing a forum for both command information and community feedback, this newspaper also serves as a "work-in-progress" historical record of life in the 6th Area Support Group.

While our primary focus is on the men and women who comprise the Stuttgart-area military community, we also have an obligation to address issues of significance within our host nation that relate to our presence here.

Not addressing the ongoing protests would also be a disservice to the members of our community, for whom host-nation cultural awareness should be of premium importance. From continuing positive relations with our German neighbors to taking appropriate personal security measures, remaining alert and informed is essential to living safely and productively overseas.

Finally, we record their dissenting voices here because our service members put themselves on the line each day to preserve and protect the right of people to do just that – give voice to the passions in their heart, without fear of repression or reprisal.

I'd appreciate hearing your thoughts on this or any other issue affecting life in the 6th ASG. My e-mail address is citizen@stuttgart.army.mil. – HCM

40 years and counting: Wiedmann achieves employment milestone

Story & photo by
Hugh C. McBride

More than four decades ago, Gerhard Wiedmann took what he intended to be a temporary job with the U.S. Army before he immigrated to America.

Forty years (and counting) later, Wiedmann has yet to even visit the nation across the Atlantic, but he continues to build bridges between the American military and its European workforce.

As chairman of the 6th Area Support Group Works Council, Wiedmann serves as a liaison between local national employees and the military.

In this role, he oversees a variety of workplace issues, such as mediating employee-supervisor conflicts and ensuring that management policies and procedures do not violate German labor laws.

Since beginning his career as a housing inspector in the now-closed Göppingen military community, Wiedmann says his philosophy has remained basically unchanged: "Take care of employees and work together with management."



Gerhard Wiedmann stands between two flags that hold special significance to him. A German citizen, Wiedmann recently completed his 40th year of service with the U.S. military.

Wiedmann has been active in Works Council affairs since 1965, and has been the full-time chairman of Stuttgart's council since 1992.

Though many Americans assume the Works Council is the equivalent of an American labor union, Wiedmann says the adversarial nature that often accompanies company/union standoffs is contrary to the Works Council concept.

"The Army is not my enemy," he said. "The Army is my employer. My job is to negotiate on a faithful basis and consider the needs of both man-

What most impresses me about Herr Wiedmann is his sincere manner.

**Col. Larry Stubblefield
6th ASG Commander**

agement and employees."

One person who should know confirms that Wiedmann puts this philosophy to practice.

"The thing that most impresses me about Herr Wiedmann is his integrity and his sincere manner," said Col. Larry Stubblefield, 6th ASG commander.

"If he brings a problem to my attention, I know that he has researched the issue, and that his heart is in finding a solution. He's a great partner."

With 40 years' work behind him – and that long-delayed trip to the States still in the plans – Wiedmann says his focus remains on the people he describes as "my family."

"I like to work with people to find solutions that they can all be satisfied with," he said. "This job is my life."

THE CITIZEN

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IN THE MAIL

OCSC president thanks community

An open letter to the members of the 6th Area Support Group community:

As the president of the Stuttgart Officers and Civilians Spouses' Club, I would like to thank the entire Stuttgart military community for the wonderful assistance we recently received with our annual Spring Bazaar.

Thanks to the efforts of everyone involved, we were able not only to have our Bazaar, but to far exceed our expectations of success. We were able to increase our after-expense profits this year, of which 100 percent goes back into the community in the form of donations to various organizations.

We all know what trying times we are currently living under, but this did nothing to hamper the enthusiasm of everyone who generously offered assistance in every aspect of this endeavor.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the following individuals and organizations who were involved in making this event happen:

- The Provost Marshal's office as well as all the MPs, dog handlers and dogs, for all their help— especially considering the increased force protection requirements they were working under.
- Total Maintenance Stuttgart, for providing the electrical hookups and making sure that they kept working all weekend.
- The communications folks for providing our public address system.
- Stuttgart-area Marines, for putting up and taking down the tents.
- Installation Coordinator Manager Ty Stearn and his staff. They were always out there bright and early cleaning up and making sure the facilities were in tip-top shape.
- The 6th ASG Fire Department and Safety Office for their guidance and help.
- 6th ASG Commander Col. Larry Stubblefield, for his unwavering support.
- Leon and Hawk, for their invaluable assistance.
- The 6th ASG Directorate of Community Activities.

I am truly humbled by the wonderful things this community is willing to do for its own. I thank each of you from the bottom of my heart.

■ The staffs of the Patch Fitness Center, Youth Services, VAT Office and Community Club staff for letting us take over their areas and for being so helpful with all our needs in the process.

■ Chief Jack Goldman and the Patch JROTC for providing an honor guard for our opening ceremony as well as for their labor to set up and then clean up.

■ The Patch High School athletic teams and the Boy Scouts for helping set up and take down.

■ The Public Affairs Office for helping get the word out and publicizing our event.

■ The vendors, who come from all corners of Europe and always say this is their favorite Bazaar.

■ All the other volunteers, too numerous to individually thank, but who nonetheless made this event flow smoothly.

■ And last but not least, a special thanks goes out to Sherri Funk and her fabulous Bazaar Committee. These women work all year to make this event look like it happens automatically. They were truly a wonderful team, working together for the good of the community.

There is a saying that "it takes a village to raise a child." Likewise, you could say it takes a community to put on a bazaar. I am truly humbled by the wonderful things this community is willing to do for its own.

I thank each of you from the bottom of my heart.

Donni Hodgkins
Stuttgart OCSC President

[For more about the OCSC Spring Bazaar see page 3]



Ornate masks, gourmet cheeses and a bounty of wine were three of the many attractions at Stuttgart's 2003 Officers and Civilians Spouses' Club's Spring Bazaar March 21 to 23 on Patch Barracks.

Bazaar benefits Stuttgart community

By Hugh C. McBride

A shopper's dilemma: pass a leisurely afternoon searching for treasure, or instead spend the time raising money for charity?

Thanks to the Stuttgart Officers and Civilians Spouses' Club, area consumers could do both at once.

March 21 to 23, the 2003 edition of the OCSC's annual Spring Bazaar raised more than \$80,000 for the military community, 90 percent of which will be returned directly to Stuttgart organ-

izations, said Sherri Funk, OCSC bazaar chairperson.

"When you volunteer to help the Stuttgart OCSC, you help our community," Funk said.

In addition to the bazaar, the club is also responsible for the Patch Barracks Thrift Shop, located in the basement of building 2307.

In the past three years, the bazaar and thrift shop's proceeds have allowed the OCSC to donate more than \$220,000 to the military community, with the bulk of that money going to schools

and youth programs, Funk said.

Though an increased operational tempo and a heightened force protection condition – not to mention a major protest scheduled outside Patch the Saturday of the bazaar – could have put a damper on this year's effort, Funk said the Stuttgart community pulled together to ensure the event's success.

Donni Hodgkins, OCSC president, concurred. "It is important to recognize the entire community for its efforts in making the bazaar a fabulous success," she said.

6th ASG honors women's history at Patch Barracks breakfast seminar

Story & photo by Melanie Casey

In conjunction with National Women's History Month, the 6th Area Support Group Equal Opportunity Office hosted a breakfast seminar March 21 in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks.

The theme of this year's event was "Women Pioneering the Future," featuring guest speaker Tracy Pinson, director of the Army Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization.

Pinson addressed the audience about issues that have affected women over the years, from the suffrage movement to women in the armed forces. American women have played an integral role in the military, she said, since the days of the Revolutionary War when they served as spies.

Women have played an ever-increasing role in the military since then, Pinson noted, adding that during Operation Desert Storm, 35,000 women participated, 40 percent of whom were African American.

Today, 15 percent of the Army and 25 percent of the Army Reserve is comprised of women, Pinson said.

When asked what advice she would give to those wishing to rise to the top in the Army, she said that one should broaden his or her horizons, apply for management and intern programs, and seek out tough developmental assignments that others don't want.

She said it is important for individuals to put themselves in an environment to meet other people and develop their network. "The key to effective management is getting along with people," she said. "If you don't have



Tracy Pinson describes some of the many accomplishments of females in the military during a seminar held for Women's History Month.

people skills, do not be a supervisor."

Pinson said that women today should not settle on being cheerleaders and should instead focus on getting "in the game."

"A woman's place is in the House," she said, "and the Senate."

Despite a late start due to a protest at the Patch gate, audience members concurred that the National Women's History Month breakfast seminar was informative, entertaining, and well worth the wait.

Pinson, breakfast-goers agreed, demonstrated that women indeed have come a long way.

Stuttgart Beat

Stuttgart-area changes, closures

■ The Women, Infants and Children (Overseas) office on Patch Barracks will be closed April 14 to 18. For more information about WIC-O in the 6th Area Support Group call 430-4608/civ. 0711-680-4608.

■ The Panzer Kaserne Installation Coordinator's office has moved to building 2974 (next to the commissary).

■ The Sunday night Praise and Worship service in the Patch Barracks Chapel now begins at 6 p.m.

Family Assistance Hotline activated

The Army has activated the 24-hour Family Assistance Hotline for family members of deployed soldiers.

The hotline number is (U.S.) 1-800-833-6622.

IACS registration continues

All U.S. identification cardholders and installation pass holders and applicants within U.S. Army, Europe, must register for the new Installation Access Control System.

Office hours (Patch Barracks, building 2307) are Mondays to Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information visit the IACS Web site at www.hqusareur.army.mil, call 430-4256/civ. 0711-680-4256 or e-mail arthur.williamson@stuapo.pmo.army.mil.

Custodial feedback session

The 6th Area Support Group is hosting a custodial performance feedback session April 30, 10 a.m., in the Patch Theater. Representatives of the 6th ASG Directorate of Public Works and the cleaning contractor will be present.

For details contact the following:

■ Patch Barracks or Department of Defense Dependents Schools customers: Call Anne Campbell at 430-5535/civ. 0711-680-5535 or e-mail campbella@6asg.army.mil.

■ Panzer/Kelley/RB/Stuttgart Army Airfield customers: Call Johannes Russom at 421-6267/civ. 0711-729-6267 or e-mail russomy@6asg.army.mil.

PHS seeks college reps

The Patch High School Parent Teacher Student Association is recruiting volunteers to represent their college at the 2003 College Fair May 15, 6 to 8 p.m., in the school forum. To volunteer call Lynn Menches at 07159-939-707 or e-mail patchcollegefair@yahoo.com.

24-Hour Marathon needs volunteers

The organizing committee for Stuttgart's annual 24-Hour Marathon needs members. This event raised more than \$12,000 for local youth organizations last year.

To help support this effort call Lt. Col. Chris Roelofs at 07031-418-691 or e-mail roelofsiii@hotmail.com.

Weight management classes begin

Stuttgart's next series of Core Four Weight Management classes is April 17 to May 22. Classes are Thursdays, noon to 1 p.m., in the Stuttgart Wellness Center (Patch Barracks, building 2307, second floor). For more information call Michelle Saylor at 430-4073/civ. 0711-680-4073.

AWAG schedules Spring Conference

American Women's Activities Germany will host its 47th Annual Spring Conference May 4 to 8 in the Armed Forces Recreation Center in Chiemsee.

For enrollment information in the 6th ASG e-mail awagschwaben@yahoo.com.

OCSC plays Crystal Bingo

Stuttgart's Officers and Civilians Spouses' Club is hosting a members-only Crystal Bingo evening April 15, 6:30 p.m. in the Swabian Special Events Center. Entry fee is \$10.

To make a reservation for this event, contact Kelly Roth (0711-620-4862) or Londa Gemeinhardt (0711-120-8461 or gemeinhard@aol.com) no later than April 8th.

Golf course sponsors tournament

Sign up now for the April 13 Opening Day Scramble tournament at the Stuttgart Golf Course. The event begins with an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start. The entry fee is \$20 for members and \$30 for nonmembers.

To register call 07141-879-151 or visit the pro shop.

Softball, baseball umpires needed

The Stuttgart-area Little League is in dire need of volunteer umpires. The league will provide training and pay for certification. For details contact Garry Smith at 07152-358-268 or e-mail garry.smith@cmtymail.6asg.army.mil.

Garmisch Beat

Lenten Luncheons continue

The Garmisch Chapel is hosting Lenten Luncheons of homemade soup and bread Tuesdays, noon to 1 p.m. These informal luncheons offer an opportunity to reflect on the significance of the Easter season and hear Chaplain Benzing discuss the life of Jesus and "the wonderful truths of Easter."

For more information call 440-2819/civ. 08821-750-819 or e-mail ronald.benzing@garmisch.army.mil.

Volunteer Recognition Ceremony approaches

The 2003 Community Volunteer Luncheon and Recognition Ceremony is April 30, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., in the Patton Hotel.

Though last year's ceremony honored more than 400 volunteers who had contributed more than 14,000 hours, only 68 individuals have registered thus far for this year's event.

Contact Army Community Service (call 442-2777/civ. 08821-759-777, e-mail patricia.howe@garmisch.army.mil, or slide a piece of paper under the office door) with your volunteer information as soon as possible.

Yoga at the Burke Center

Yoga classes (taught by a certified instructor) are held Tuesdays, 9 to 10:30 a.m.; Wednesdays, 5:45 to 7:15 p.m.; and also Thursdays, 5:45 to 7:15 p.m. in the Pete Burke Center.

Classes are \$30 for six weekly classes or \$6 per class. For more information call 440-2638/civ. 08821-750-638.

'Big Fat Greek Dinner'

Partly inspired by the film of the similar name, this April 21 class in the Pete Burke Center will address cooking "on the lighter side" of Greek fare. Class fee is \$13 per person.

For details call 440-2638/civ. 08821-750-638.

Verona Opera under the stars

The Pete Burke Center is sponsoring two three-day summertime trips to Verona. Both trips include three overnights in Verona (at a small family-run pension in the heart of the old city) and two open-air operas.

Each trip costs \$285 (which includes transportation, lodging and opera tickets). These trips traditionally sell out quickly, but a \$150 deposit can secure a reservation today.

For details call 440-2461/civ. 08821-750-461 or e-mail paul.dutro@garmisch.army.mil.

Volunteers sought for German-American Picnic

Planning has already begun for Garmisch's annual German-American Friendship Picnic – to be held May 10 at the Pete Burke Center. Volunteers are needed to help set up, cook, serve, supervise children and (of course) clean up.

To help make this special community event a successful one, e-mail andrea.winter@garmisch.army.mil.

Band needed for July 4 picnic

The Garmisch Area Support Team's business operations branch is soliciting bids from bands to perform at a 4th of July picnic.

Bids should reflect playing for two to two-and-a-half hours with one 15-minute break.

For more information call 442-2504/civ. 08821-753-503 for 442-2658/civ. 08821-759-658.



During Garmisch's "Healthy Lifestyle Challenge" community members could earn points for participating in fitness-related activities such as this Tai Chi class in Artillery Kaserne's Pete Burke Community Center.

'Looking good, feeling terrific' Healthy Lifestyle Challenge motivates community

Story & photo by Hugh C. McBride

With the Fat Slags trying to chase down a group of Cold Turkeys, and the Real Slim Shadys attempting to fend off a Big Mac Attack, suffice it to say that Garmisch was an energetic place for a recently concluded eight-week period.

The Slags, Turkeys, Shadys and Attack(ers) were four of the 34 teams who accepted the Garmisch's first "Healthy Lifestyle Challenge," a fitness and nutrition program designed by Lory Papson of the Mueller Fitness Center.

Getting started, staying motivated

About 200 members of the Garmisch community participated in the challenge, which Papson said was "designed to allow teams or individuals to compete by earning points through exercise and by adopting a healthy lifestyle."

Papson based the concept for Garmisch's Challenge on a 1998 program in Dyersville, Iowa, that she read about in USA Today. Taking the team concept and irreverent attitude (Dyersville boasted teams such as "Bun Busters" and "Hips, Hips, Away") from the original program, Papson adapted the idea to meet the needs of Garmisch residents and to take advantage of available resources.

"We developed this fitness challenge as an easy way to get started and stay motivated," she said.

One key adjustment Papson made when bringing the Challenge to Garmisch was shifting the emphasis from losing a certain amount of weight to following a healthy lifestyle.

While participants in Dyersville's "Fight the Fat" contest earned points based upon the amount of weight they lost, Papson rewarded Garmisch participants for time spent in the gym or on the bike.

"People could choose the way they wanted to ex-



During the Lifestyle Challenge, "Broccoli Man" became a high-profile member of the Garmisch community.

'Fat, lazy and stupid is no way to go through life.'

Dave Sutton

'Healthy Lifestyle Challenge' participant

ercise," she added. "We put on Healthy Cooking classes at the Pete Burke Community Center [and] we had the local commissary involved by displaying information on healthier food options."

Healthier options in the commissary were marked with signs featuring a cartoon "Broccoli Man" lifting weights – an image program participants were familiar with from Papson's promotional material.

Making progress

Participants had the opportunity to receive pre-competition health assessments in January to record weight, body fat, strength, flexibility and resting heart rate. A program-ending assessment was offered to document personal progress achieved during the contest.

Also, every competitor set a personal fitness goal (for example, to lose a certain amount of weight, reduce body fat by a selected percentage or avoid an unhealthy food for the duration of the event) at the outset of the Challenge.

Individuals could score points for their teams by exercising 30 minutes per day or by completing "incentive" activities such as group power walks, healthy cooking classes and nutrition quiz nights.

Keeping things 'light'

As a motivator and morale booster, Papson also distributed a bi-weekly newsletter. "Lifestyle Challenge News" included cartoons, fitness tips and announcements, team progress charts and interviews with Challenge participants.

As befitted the not-so-serious nature of the event, the interviews contained such "inside information" as Dave Sutton's admission that one of his fitness goals was to get taller and his reason for participating was "because fat, lazy and stupid is no way to go through life."

Tax Center 'Top Ten'

Stuttgart center can ease the pain of tax time

By Maria Higgins

If filing taxes while stationed in Germany promises to be a *sturm und drang*-filled ordeal, consider turning things over to professionals at the Stuttgart Tax Center. The center provides community members with fast, free help squaring money matters away with Uncle Sam.

Capt. Christine Connolly, a tax attorney and the center's chief of client services, gave several reasons why an appointment with the Tax Center can be worth its weight in gold:

1. It's e-easy. Specially trained "e-filers" are on hand to help clients submit their claims electronically – and indeed most who use the Tax Center opt for online submission.

Speed is the biggest benefit to e-filing: A client's paperwork is usually transmitted the same evening as the appointment, and processed by the IRS within 24 hours.

Any claims with clerical or other errors are immediately kicked back for correction, barely slowing the process.

2. It's fast. Individuals who file their tax return electronically are entitled to a refund and should see the money deposited into their bank account within two weeks, or a paper check cut and mailed out within the same time frame.

3. It's accurate. Tax Center staff receive the latest information from the Internal Revenue Service, and know when the wrong information gets circulated in the popular media.

A recent article on DefenseLink.com, for instance, claimed that civilian employees accompanying the armed forces in a combat zone or qualified hazardous-duty area do not qualify for filing extensions. However, this was incorrect (these individuals do qualify for the extension).

Also, the software program TaxWise incorrectly calculates the child tax credit in the 2002 version, a snag that can not be corrected without creating serious program problems.

4. It's attuned to military matters. How else to quickly



It's not "1040-EZ" for everyone. If preparing your return yourself is just too taxing, schedule an appointment at the Stuttgart Tax Center and let the pros file for you.

find out that the cost of a new uniform is not tax deductible, but the cost of a new unit patch is? Or which occupations count as "direct support" to a mission and qualify for special hazardous duty area or combat zone exemptions (versus those considered by the IRS to be "indirect support" and thus ineligible)?

These days, staff members are keeping close watch on Congress or the president to retroactively declare certain regions of the world as hazardous duty areas or combat zones, moves that would have significant repercussions for many military taxpayers.

5. It can buy you time. Americans living abroad have until June 15, rather than April 15, to file their taxes.

Tax Center personnel can help clients request an extension beyond that time, while steering them clear of a popular misconception. An extension of time to file does not mean you have an extension of time to pay any tax due.

Service members serving in a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area are entitled to their time in service plus 180 days to file and pay – with no penalties or interest accruing.

6. Its services are multifaceted. Tax Center staff members can help with filling out a new W-4 form if a client feels he or she would benefit from greater yearlong paycheck deductions (resulting in a larger return) or fewer paycheck deductions (yielding a smaller return but more money throughout the year).

They can also research individual laws and IRS codes to answer specific tax questions, and provide guidance for next year's obligations.

7. It's more convenient than ever. The Tax Center's recent relocation to Kelley Barracks (building 3312, second floor) means fewer parking nightmares than when the office was situated in Patch Barracks' Washington Square.

No car? The shuttle service has added a Kelley Barracks drop-off right in front of the building.

8. Walk-ins are welcome. However, community members are asked to make an appointment if their situation involves rental property, sale of stock or mutual funds, foreign tax issues or itemized deductions.

9. Hours are convenient. Tax Center employees are available Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and -until April 15 -Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. After the 15th, Thursday hours will end at 5 p.m. as well.

10. It can all be over with one shot - that is, if visitors remember to bring the following items with them:

- Military ID card
- Social Security card for each dependent
- W-2, 1099 and 1098 forms
- Bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit of refund
- Copy of prior year's tax return, if possible
- If filing jointly, spouse or power of attorney.

For more information call 421-4588/civ. 0711-729-4588.

Relief Act of 1940 protects service members today

By Master Sgt. Scott Elliott
Air Force Print News

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 protects military members from certain legal obligations while they are actively engaged in national defense.

Among the Act's chief provisions is its ability to reduce interest rates on debts incurred before active-duty status, protect service members and their families from eviction, and delay civil court actions.

But it is not automatic. For service members to take advantage of the act, individual service members should notify their creditors of the active-duty status and their intent to invoke their civil relief act rights.

Rights under the act include the following:

■ Limiting interest rates to 6 percent for all debts incurred before beginning active-duty service. This provision includes interest rates on credit cards, mortgages and auto loans – but not federal student loans.

■ Protecting family members from eviction during times of active-duty service, regardless of whether the lease was signed before or after activation. If the monthly lease is \$1,200 or less, a landlord must seek a court order to authorize an eviction.

■ Prohibiting repossessions and foreclosures without court permission.

■ Postponing civil lawsuits the service member is a direct party to, such as bankruptcy.

■ Extending deadlines to file law suits by eliminating time served on active duty from calculating any statute of limitations.

■ Protecting active-duty people from taxation by states other than by their state of domicile.

■ Prohibiting creditors and insurance companies from making adverse credit reports, denying credit or taking adverse financial action against a service member based solely on invocation of the act.

For more information contact a local legal assistance office or visit www.af.mil/news/Mar2003/32503266print.shtml.



Security dogs have a nose for trouble

Story & photos by Maria Higgins

Pond Security officers Thomas Sanwald and Martin Simon each have what you might call high-maintenance partners – prone to fighting, moody at times, and always in need of attention even on the guards' days off. But when there's a potentially explosive situation, they're the ones you want on the job.

Enzo, Sanwald's partner, and Clyde, who works with Simon, are members of Pond Security's elite canine unit.

Based at the Panzer Kaserne Military Police kennel, the dogs are being trained in an innovative program by both MPs and Pond staff to perform to the same U.S. Army, Europe, bomb-detection standard as the legendary MP dogs. The initiative is part of a multipronged effort to ensure ongoing security for community members during times of deploying resources, said Guy Lane, Pond Security area manager.

The dogs, two of a larger number participating in the program, were purchased by Pond from Detector Dogs of America, a group that selects promising candidates and puts them through something akin to doggie basic training. The Army-Pond training they are undergoing now is honing their natural odor-detecting talents to sniff out explosives with at least a 95-percent rate of success.

When the dogs pass certification, as Enzo and Clyde have, they are ready to work with their Pond handlers as force protection

augmentees alongside MPs, Polizei and borrowed military manpower on U.S. installations in the 6th Area Support Group.

6th ASG Kennel Master Jeremy Peek said that combining the efforts of the MP specialists and the Pond handlers has been very successful to date. The Pond personnel "work really well with us," he said.

It is demanding work, even if – for the dogs, at least – the training is fun and games.

Sanwald and Simon, security guards who were chosen by the Pond company to attend ammunition detection school and become special canine handlers, must constantly hone their relationships with the dogs to keep them loyal and motivated.

This means visits to the kennel even on weekends and holidays to feed, exercise and romp with the animals. As Sanwald explained, "The good part of the job is getting to be with the dogs. The bad part of the job is having to be with the dogs!"

Both men professed a strong affection for their partners, quirks and all. Simon, who noted that Clyde can be a "sneaky cheater" obsessed with wheedling extra rewards and generally must be kept on a tighter leash than most of the other dogs, likened the partnership to "adopting a kid," with equal amounts of caretaking and affection.

"He's a part of me, a friend of mine," agreed Sanwald, who said he particularly enjoys seeing Enzo's joyous reaction when he greets the dog in his kennel each day.

Like all handlers, they were matched with



Pond Security officer Thomas Sanwald bonds with Enzo, his canine partner. To the German Shepherd, jumping to catch a ball (above) and sniffing out hidden explosives (top left) are equally enjoyable "games."

their dogs based on personality – theirs, and the animals'. Simon, for one, is "even-tempered and calm," said Lane, traits that nicely balance Clyde's "rambunctious" spirit.

And Sanwald's supreme self-confidence is essential for dealing effectively with Enzo's "hard-headed" tendency to want to be the boss, Lane added.

Unlike MP patrol dogs, who are all trained to attack as well as to detect, Pond dogs focus on detection – though by nature they are few people's idea of a family pet.

"We don't let them come within 6 feet of each other," explained Army Sgt. Jason DeFelice, one of the expert trainers. "Most of these dogs were the 'Alpha' dogs of their litters, and the young males in particular are always looking to figure out who's the best."

In a somewhat ironic twist, the dogs are trained in what Peek termed "passive response." Peek explained, "They are taught to immediately sit down when they smell an explosive. If they jumped and were aggressive or excited, they might blow up the bomb."

The successful detection of a "plant," or hidden contraband, is so subtle, in fact, that it can take several demonstrations until an observer catches on to the trick.

Enzo shows off his impressive nose for trouble by finding a bundle of explosives tucked inside a car engine with all the urgency of a mutt about to nap.

He uncovers the bomb again and again, receiving a coveted treat after each potentially lifesaving catch. Good dog, indeed.

USAREUR offers reward for missing wrecker



U.S. Army, Europe, Release

Army law enforcement officials are offering a reward of \$10,000 for any information leading to the recovery of a military wrecker believed stolen from a motor pool in Würzburg.

The vehicle, an M936WW 5-ton wrecker (with winch mounted on the vehicle's front bumper), was reported missing March 10.

Officials say a preliminary investigation has determined that the vehicle was likely removed from the secure, but unattended, 1st Military Police Company motor pool between 6 and 6:30 a.m.

The vehicle, valued at \$126,000, was marked with the bumper number P890, but

To report information about the missing wrecker call 377-4906/civ. 06221-39-4906 or contact a CID office.

this number may have been removed or changed.

Anyone who has information about this vehicle should call 377-4906/civ. 06221-39-4906 or contact the local Criminal Investigation Division office.

Combined Endeavor 2003

EUCOM directorate coordinates global telecommunication exercise

By Hugh C. McBride

Eight years after its relatively humble beginnings on Stuttgart's Kelley Barracks, an annual U.S. European Command-sponsored telecommunication exercise has evolved into the largest event of its kind in the world.

Coordinated by EUCOM's Directorate of Command, Control and Communications Systems, "Combined Endeavor" focuses on the interoperability of participating militaries' communications and information systems.

In addition to the technical aspects of the undertaking, though, the exercise also serves to promote cultural awareness and respect, said Gregory Lee, Combined Endeavor staff member.

"[Combined Endeavor] addresses both human interoperability and technical interoperability," Lee said. "Nations can work together – and we're proof of that."

According to promotional material provided by EUCOM, Combined En-

deavor ensures "a constant and reliable peacetime exchange" that allows participating nations to test their communication and information systems according to NATO standards through the use of commercial "off-the-shelf" software.

This effort, Bell said, allows developing nations to access considerable information on NATO standards – which, in turn, promotes regional stability and security.

In a video documenting Combined Endeavor 2002, Lt. Col. Michael Holley says the exercise also gives experts in the field "the time to experiment and try new ways of making communication work."

Combined Endeavor is conducted "in the spirit of" NATO's Partnership for Peace (a program to enhance communication and cooperation among European nations).

Combined Endeavor began with a 1995 meeting involving ten countries. The 2003 event (May 8 to 22 in Baumholder) will include representatives from 39 nations and two multinational organizations.



photos courtesy Ramstein Visual Information

From Combined Endeavor 2002: [Top left] A team of Romanian military personnel complete a project. [Top right] A service member from Kyrgyzstan Republic tests telecommunication equipment. [Bottom] A "parade of nations" during CE 2002's opening days.

Patch High School's JROTC course 'prepares kids for life'

Story by Johnathan Walker

High school is certainly an important time for children. They have so much to learn about so many different topics. Some of the topics can be a bit dry, and it isn't surprising that young people can get bored sitting in a classroom and taking notes. But not all courses are alike, nor are they necessarily boring.

One course, offered at Patch High School, involves many challenging out-of-classroom activities. Although the curriculum isn't found in a textbook, it teaches some of life's most important lessons and it challenges young people.

Subjects cover the basics of history, government, current events and leadership skills, like how to motivate people. The elective course, designed to develop the self-confidence of young people and promote teamwork, is called Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, or JROTC.

"It prepares kids for life," explained Chief Warrant Officer Jack Goldman, JROTC senior instructor. "Every cadet can gain poise and confidence as a result of the JROTC experience." The program currently includes 68 students, or "cadets." They participate in numerous activities including drill team, rifle team, color guard and honor guard programs.

Sgt. Maj. George Goodrum, JROTC instructor, said, "It gives a young person something other than a regular high school class." According to Goodrum, drill team members practice weekly during the spring sports season and compete against other district schools; rifle team members compete with other area teams and are eligible to go to the European championships.

"The color guard and honor guard are constantly in demand by area organizations. They provide a degree of formality to events, especially high-profile events like the EUCOM Commander's New Year's reception," Goldman said.

Goodrum listed some of the many other activities cadets

are involved with, including Patch Elementary School's holiday party for special needs children; Youth Services' annual Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween haunted house and Christmas party; Patch High School's graduation ceremony; and helping with the Officers and Civilians Spouses' Club Bazaar.

The cadets also organize the annual Turkey Shoot, a fundraising marksmanship contest open to the entire community. The proceeds are used to help sponsor an orphanage in Romania, where the cadets annually hand deliver a \$1,000 donation to support the children.

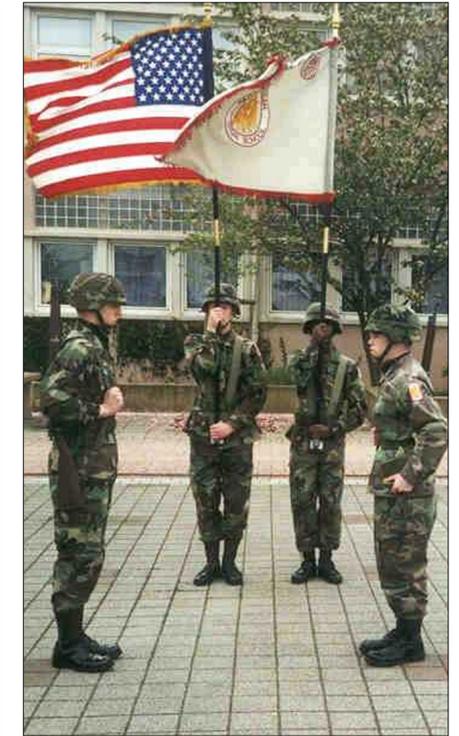
But the cadets don't just participate in community service projects. They also find time for self-improvement and self-development programs. They learn how to rappel from a tower, located at Panzer Training Area, with instruction from U.S. Army Special Forces personnel. The cadets also learn about orienteering, which involves map-reading and land-navigation skills.

Additionally, there are opportunities to attend annual summer camps in Germany and England, where cadets train on confidence courses, play team sports, practice land-navigation skills and learn water-safety techniques.

The battalion holds both an awards banquet to recognize outstanding performance by cadets, and a formal military ball annually. The ball draws many community members and, notably, this year's guest speaker was Lt. Gen. John Sylvester, U.S. European Command chief of staff.

When asked what he likes best about the JROTC program, Cadet Lt. Col. Zachary Kell, JROTC battalion commander, said, "You don't just sit in a classroom, you're outside a lot and there's always something new to learn."

Established by Congress in 1916, the JROTC program was developed in 1911 by Army Lt. Edgar Stevens. He conceived the idea of a high school class that would teach young people to be better citizens. Today, selected private and public high schools in all 50 states have JROTC programs, teaching leadership, teamwork and self-confidence skills.



(Above) Color guard team members compete at a 2002 conference meet in Mannheim. JROTC receives requests throughout the year for the color guard to perform opening ceremonies at local events.

(Left) Drill team members traveled to Bad Kreuznach in 2001 for an area competition. They brought back three trophies, including 1st place precision platoon and 2nd place for precision squad and conference.

photos courtesy Patch High School JROTC



During the annual 10-day summer camp, cadets are challenged to demonstrate their orienteering skills, which include using a compass and map reading, among other land-navigation activities.



Cadets test their abilities in a canoe during adventure training held near Grafenwöhr Training Area. Cadets say the training helps them conquer challenges they never thought they could.



Members of the competitive rifle marksmanship team, shown in their leather shooter's clothing, practice for an upcoming match against another JROTC battalion.

How to help

Area organizations support service members both in the field and on the mend

By Maria Higgins

With injured service members arriving for treatment at nearby Landstuhl Army Medical Center, and individual families and offices saying goodbye to "gulf-bound" loved ones and colleagues, 6th Area Support Group community members may feel the current war hitting close to home – and the urge to help hitting close to the heart.

The following are ongoing outlets for anyone in the Stuttgart area wishing to donate time, money or essential items to aid soldiers in the field or on the mend.

United Service Organization

With oversight for USO branches in Landstuhl and Ramstein, the USO-Kaiserslautern is on the front lines for aiding recuperating service members, who are all transported here for at least part of their recovery.

In short order, the group helped stand up a "Touch of Home" USO lounge within the 100-bed Contingency Aero-Medical Staging Facility at Ramstein, where wounded men and women wait for medical evacuation from Landstuhl to the United States.

Here, the service members can "get out of bed and take a comfortable respite from the stresses in their lives right now," said Director Walt Murren.

Also, since Jan. 28, the USO has been aiding the deployment of forces at Ramstein's Joint Mobility Processing Center (commonly called the Purple Ramp). This facility is the last stage of the deployment process; service members wait here before flying to their operational area.

Anyone wishing to volunteer with either the AMSF or JMPC – by supporting vendors, staff and other volunteers – is welcome to receive training. "We'll work you into the schedule, but it's a long drive" for Stuttgart residents, said Murren.

There is also a need for DVDs, GameBoys, board games, music CDs, and any other entertainment items that can help alleviate boredom for recuperating troops, said Murren.

Most beneficial, however, are cards and letters of support thanking the service members for their sacrifices, Murren said. "They need uplifting things to see. We will post any supportive mail on the walls at both facilities, and rotate the letters so they all get a chance to be viewed."

Donated items and letters of support can either be mailed directly to **USO-Kaiserslautern** (Unit 23152, APO AE 09227) or locally to the **USO-Stuttgart** (Patch Barracks, Unit 30401, APO AE 09107), which will deliver the contributions to Murren's center.

Murren will gladly provide updates on needed items, which he said "evolve as [the war] changes." He is reachable by phone at 489-7233/7851/civ. 0631-536-6033, or via e-mail at Murrenw.uso@cmtymail.26ASG.army.mil.



Lance Cpl. Brian Wickliffe

Marine Staff Sgt. Jose Salazar finds an innovative way to stay moderately clean at Camp Viking, Kuwait. Harsh desert living conditions make donations of comfort items like lip balm and wet wipes much appreciated.

Landstuhl Chaplain's Office

"A large amount of volunteers have stepped up to the plate" and are being coordinated in part by the Landstuhl Chaplain's Office, said Loretta Wood, executive assistant.

Anyone interested in helping hospitalized patients at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, collecting and organizing donations from commercial and private organizations and businesses, providing baked goods for patients and staff, or assisting with the needs of Fisher House (where family members of wounded service members often stay) is welcome to call Wood and inquire about current needs.

At press time, the biggest need was for donated new shoes (sizes 9 to 13) for patients, preferably slip-ons or with Velcro closures.

For more information contact Wood at 486-8143/civ. 06371-86-8143, or call Fisher House at 486-6630/civ. 06371-86-6630.

Support services online

■ **On the Home Front** lists volunteer resources for people seeking to support American troops, their families and their communities. Launched by The Department of Defense and the USO Freedom Corps, the site can be found at www.usafreedomcorps.gov.

■ **Operation USA Care Package** accepts monetary contributions toward troop-bound deliveries of sunscreen, toiletries, prepaid telephone cards, disposable cameras and more. Sponsored by the USO, the site is located at www.usocares.org/home.

■ **Defend America** invites people to sign an online thank-you card for troops at www.defendamerica.mil.

■ **Operation Dear Abby** will send e-mail messages to deployed troops of any service from your home state via <http://anyservicemember.navy.mil>.

Wounded Warrior Hospital Fund

A special account set up last week by concerned members of the European Theater Command Center and EUCOM directorates who initially just "passed the hat," the Wounded Warrior Hospital Fund was established to purchase and donate items to hospitals in Landstuhl and Rota, Spain.

To contribute, stop by any Community Bank branch and ask to make a donation.

For details about the fund, or to donate stamped stationery, books, DVDs or other items useful to recovering service members, contact Col. J.D. Folsom, MARFOREUR liaison officer to EUCOM, at 430-5324/civ.0711-680-5324.

Stuttgart Red Cross

The Panzer Kaserne-based Stuttgart Red Cross is one of 23 Red Cross stations in Germany, Belgium and Turkey, but serves as the hub for after-hours emergency service for all. Volunteers are needed to staff the after-hours call service and to serve as caseworkers for service members and their families.

"We're getting the job done every night, but if something changes dramatically our need [for additional volunteers] could become acute," said Sheila Miller, senior station manager.

For more information contact Heather Haiss, volunteer coordinator, at 431-2818/civ. 07031-15-818.

To learn more about opportunities to assist service members, read the April 25 edition of *The Citizen*. To let us know about ongoing efforts within the 6th ASG, e-mail citizen@6asg.army.mil or call 421-2046/civ. 0711-729-2046.

Lunchtime seminars help families deal with deployment

Story & photo by Melanie Casey

In conjunction with the Month of the Military Child, Army Community Service and the Family Advocacy Program on Patch Barracks are sponsoring a series of informal and informative lunchtime sessions aimed at helping parents and children communicate better in times of deployment.

The "Brown Bag" series sessions are free and open to everyone. The topics are timely and, for military families, timeless.

Since "knowledge is power," the Brown Bag discussions are aimed at helping families cope more effectively with stressful situations and "everyday problems."

The hourlong meetings stress awareness and prevention and provide the tools moth-

ers and fathers need to become better at the most important of their many jobs: parenting.

The sessions take place in the Army Community Service office (Patch Barracks, building 2307) Tuesdays, noon to 1 p.m.

The gatherings are led by members of the Family Advocacy Program, all of whom have experience and expertise in parent education.

The following is the remainder of the April schedule:

■ April 9: *When Parents Get Angry*
 ■ April 16: *Talking to your Kids About World Events*

■ April 23: *When 'No' Gets You Nowhere*
 Classes are free and registration is not required – just pack a lunch and pick a topic.

For more information call ACS at 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176.



Discussion group members share a laugh during an April 3 "Brown Bag" session on reuniting after deployment. Sponsored by Army Community Service and the Family Advocacy Program, the lunchtime seminars are designed to help military families deal with separation.

Higher education opportunities in transition

Pursuit of college degrees remains possible in Europe

Story & photo
by Johnathan Walker

During the last year, various announcements have publicized the 'drawdown' of opportunities to seek higher education in Europe. The University of Maryland University College closed its four-year residential campus located in Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany, in 2002. City Colleges of Chicago in Europe, offering an Associates of Arts Degree with 30 concentrations, will close its doors July 31. University of Maryland's University College in Mannheim, a two-year residential campus, plans to close in May 2004.

University of Maryland officials contend that the decision to close both the Schwäbisch Gmünd and Mannheim campuses was based on financial reasons attributable to declining enrollments.

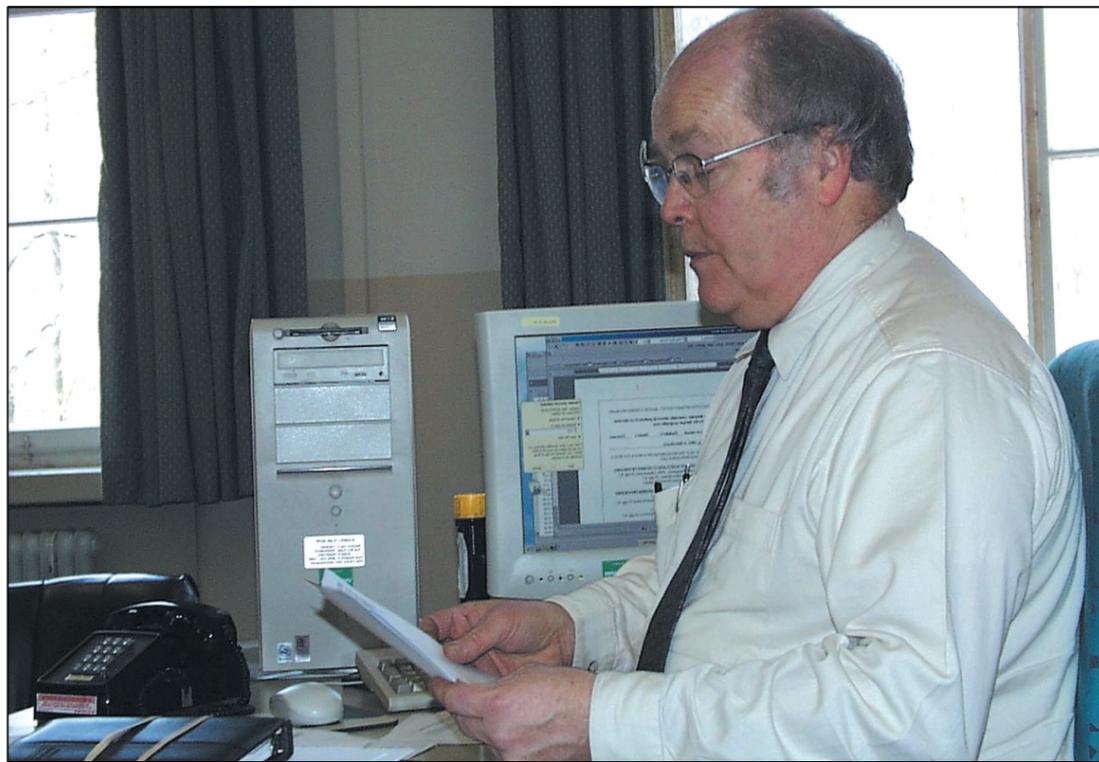
City Colleges of Chicago announced, without citing a specific reason, that it would not renew its contract to provide higher education in Europe.

College opportunities still abound

With all the closures it may appear that it's becoming difficult to pursue a college degree while stationed in Europe. "Not so," says Michael O'Beirne, education services officer for the 6th Area Support Group's Army Education Center.

O'Beirne said, "On one hand it's true that the University of Maryland's residential campus in Mannheim and Schwäbisch Gmünd will not be replaced. On the other hand, the departure of City Colleges of Chicago," which maintained exclusivity on distance education (DE) courses, "will not create a void because the University of Maryland will simply replace it."

He explained that DE courses are conducted by means of the Internet, allowing the student to use a computer almost anywhere, complete lessons and communicate with the instructor or fellow classmates. "The advantage is the ability to complete course work by going 'on-line' at just about anytime," said O'Beirne. This format offers an alternative means to taking courses for those who work shifts and are unable to attend class meetings.



As the 6th Area Support Group Education Services Officer, Michael O'Beirne oversees educational programs in the military communities of Stuttgart, Garmisch and Bad Aibling. O'Beirne remains upbeat about the current and future availability of opportunities for higher education in Europe.

'The most important thing is to have an educational interest or goal of some kind and then come see us.'

Michael O'Beirne
6th ASG Army Education Center

For others who prefer the traditional classroom environment, several schools offer a variety of courses and programs, including the University of Maryland, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, University of Oklahoma and later this year, Central Texas College and the University of Phoenix. Some of these schools provide classes on Patch Barracks or Panzer Kaserne. Others require students to commute to the Mannheim or Kaiserslautern areas to attend classes, often on the weekends.

"Additionally, service members have the opportunity to enroll in courses from almost any U.S. university by using the DE format," said O'Beirne. "Service members can come in and say they want to take a class, for example, with the University of Idaho, University of Florida or University of Massachusetts. The choices of which schools to attend are very broad."

An item of immense importance concerns the institution's accreditation.

O'Beirne encourages all current and future students to verify that any institutions they have in mind are accredited, so when it comes time for transferring from one institution to another, students will avoid learning that their educational efforts will not be accepted by a school.

Guidance available

"People can come in even if they are just curious about their educational status. If they are in doubt about college, I encourage them to remember, part of our job here in the education center is to reduce the doubt," said O'Beirne.

"Many people on active duty, for one reason or another, made the decision to join the military instead of going to college," said O'Beirne, "A lot of those people begin their pursuit of a college education while in the military with us, and for them the education center is that first door to higher education."

Some people may not know how to start or continue the pursuit of a college degree and need a little help. When asked about the first step people should take, O'Beirne replied, "They should bring their questions and doubts to us and should not worry if they don't have the documents they think they might need."

O'Beirne continued, "The most important thing is to determine an educational interest or goal of some kind and then come see us." He emphasized that although the education center is an Army office, as a 6th ASG agency, it is prepared to assist service members of all military branches serving in Europe.

For more information about education opportunities in Europe call 431-2684/civ. 07031-15-684.

*Derby Days in Stuttgart***Local scouts feed their need for speed**

Story & photos by
Hugh C. McBride

Ingenuity and imagination mingled with drama and desire in the Stuttgart area as Pinewood Derbies were hotly contested on Patch Barracks, Panzer Kaserne and Robinson Barracks over two March weekends.

The RB Scouts were the first to take to the track, holding their competition March 8 in the RB Elementary School cafeteria.

In addition to being the first area Derby of 2003, the RB event also boasted a new track, courtesy of Army Sgt. Michael Elovecky.

Elovecky, whose late father, Bill, had been an Eagle Scout, donated money to RB Pack 3 to purchase the new track.

"I wanted to do something in memory of my dad that the kids could enjoy for years to come," Elovecky said.

Two weeks after the RB races, scouts from Patch and Panzer squared off in simultaneous events March 22.

While the Panzer racers were zooming down the track in the Böblingen Elementary School all-purpose room, the Patch Scouts

Pinewood Derby resources online

BoyScouts.com
www.boyscouts.com

Boy Scouts of America
www.scoutstuff.org

ABC Pinewood Derby
www.abc-pinewood-derby.com

The Ultimate Derby Site
<http://members.aol.com/randywo/pine/>

faced off in Patch Elementary School. As an added attraction for the Patch participants and spectators, their event also featured a "Raingutter Regatta" in which handmade boats were raced down parallel waterways.

The Derby, a traditional highlight on Scouting calendars, tests Scouts' abilities to craft and race wooden cars down a 32-foot track.

Founded in 1953 by Donald Murphy of Manhattan Beach, Calif., the event received national attention courtesy of a 1954 article in Boys' Life.



As Bruce Bland (in striped shirt) looks on, Will Kasberg (with arm raised) celebrates his victory, while Grant Whitmire (standing) agonizes over what might have been at the end of an extremely close heat during the Panzer Pinewood Derby March 29 in Böblingen Elementary School.



In addition to the "thrill of victory," Panzer scouts also competed for the right to hoist this trophy.



[Clockwise from lower left] 1. Robinson Barracks Cubmaster Don Burns addresses Michael Elovecky and his son, Michael Cary, during a ceremony to dedicate RB's new Derby track in memory of Elovecky's father, Bill.
 2. Though Derby rules prevented the lighting of this Panzer vehicle's "afterburner," the car nonetheless was representative of the creativity present at all the events.
 3. RB Bear Cub Zachary Zuspan is the picture of intensity as he seemingly wills his Derby car across the finish line.
 4. Panzer Bear Den Leader David Kasberg gives the official timers a "thumbs up" before releasing three competing Derby cars.
 5. In addition to the Pinewood Derby, the Patch event also featured a "Raingutter Regatta" in which personal "hot air" replaced gravity as the mode of propulsion.

When one door closes, another opens ...

Panzer Bowling Center to shut for renovation, but Kelley facility prepared to fill the gap

By Christie Lawler

Ready. Set. Bowl! In case you haven't heard, Stuttgart's Panzer Bowling Center is closing for renovations April 20. The \$6.2 million construction project includes a complete overhaul of the center from the ceiling to the floor. The facility will almost double in size, and new features will create a family-friendly, smoke-free environment for everyone to enjoy.

What exactly can the community expect to see when the center reopens in August 2004? Well, try this on for size:

- Twenty-four lanes featuring all new equipment (including new Brunswick scoring systems with enhanced graphics)

- A family entertainment center (including a padded "soft play area" for the littlest patrons)

- A party room, meeting room and video game room

- A brand new slot area, complete with all new machines

- A shiny new bar with an expanded snack menu

- Larger restrooms

- A larger bowling counter to accommodate all the additional patrons

- "Cosmic Bowling," which makes everything in the place glow, including those spiffy shoes.

- And, as an added bonus, air conditioning.

That's right, not only will the Panzer Bowling Center be a fantastic place to glide a ball down a glossy lane, but it will be the coolest place to do it as well.

"It's going to be a nice place to come, better for families," said Al Day, 6th Area Support Group bowling manager.

Day will oversee the construction process with the contractors, doing weekly checks and monitoring progress. The results, Day boasts, "will put us a little above the standard." He says he hopes that the renovation will make his center "the premier bowling center in USAREUR."

Day also worked with the interior designers who traveled from the States to assess the needs of the center and its patrons.

In addition to the designers, Day had assistance from Community Family Support Center personnel during the initial process. "This is a very complex deal," he said. "This is major construction."

To celebrate the upcoming renovation, a final blowout

Even though the Panzer Bowling Center will be out of commission for the next 16 months, bowlers can still enjoy their sport at the newly renovated Kelley Bowling Center.

special is being offered to all bowling fans in Stuttgart. As an incentive to come out and enjoy the final days, the bowling center is offering the "1040 Special."

Designed to coincide with the final days of tax time, the special offers a screaming deal on shoe rentals and game prices. Between April 12 and 20, all shoe rentals are just 10 cents, and customers will pay just 40 cents per game.

This finance-friendly deal culminates in a unique free giveaway April 19 and 20. All customers who bowl during those last two days before the center closes will receive (while supplies last, of course) a free bowling pin as a souvenir to help mark the occasion.

Don't forget, however, that even though the Panzer Bowling Center will be out of commission for the next 16 months, bowlers can still enjoy their sport at the newly renovated Kelley Bowling Center.

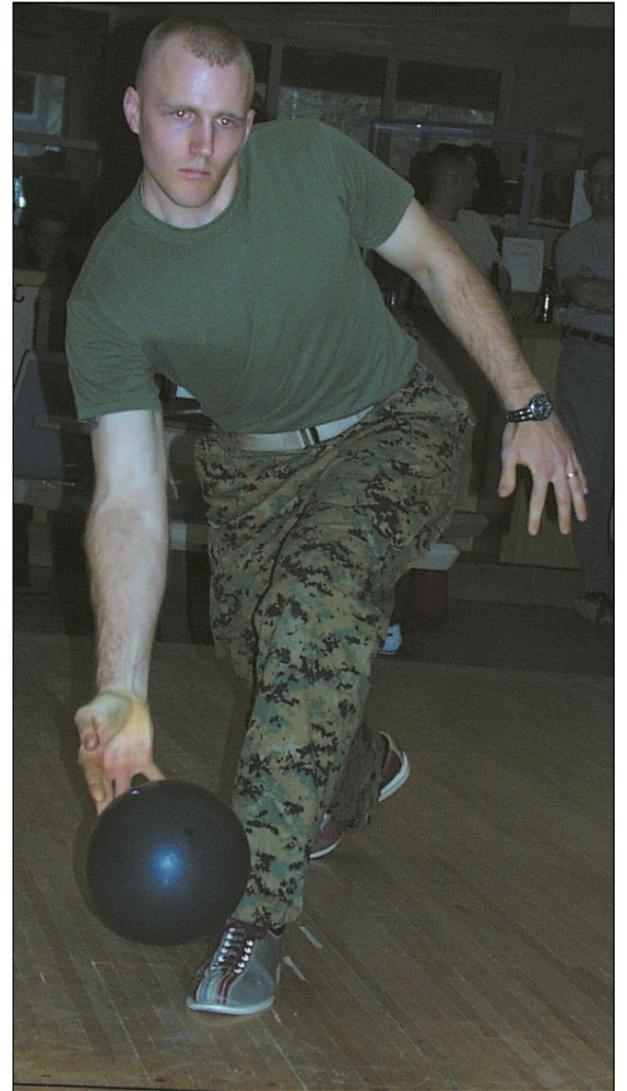
Kelley offers six lanes, a brand new snack bar, expanded menu and a light, airy environment complete with slot machines for those who feel lucky.

In fact, the crew of the Kelley Bowling Center invites the community to check out their new place.

Come to the center April 21 to 28 for \$1 games. "Since our renovation, we have a new and expanded snack bar. Everyone should come check us out," said Manager Connie Geisel. "Give us a try."

The Kelley Bowling Center is also offering birthday parties for children and summer leagues for bowlers looking for extra camaraderie. Among others, a German-American mixed league is offered Friday nights.

For details call the Kelley Bowling Center at 421-2559/civ. 0711-729-2559 or the Panzer Bowling Center at 431-2753/civ. 07031-15-753.



Christie Lawler

Marine Cpl. Deryl Surratt approaches the line during a unit event in the Panzer Bowling Center. The center closes April 20 for renovations.

APRIL BOWLING SPECIALS

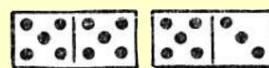
The Panzer Bowling Center is offering the "1040 Special" to all customers between April 12 and 20.

Shoe rentals are just 10 cents and games are 40 cents each.

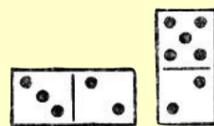
In addition to the discounted prices, the center will be giving away bowling pins as souvenirs to all customers April 19 and 20 (while supplies last). Don't miss this opportunity for some fun for the whole family.



The Kelley Bowling Center is hosting a special. All customers will pay only \$1 per game between April 21 and 28. In addition, the center is offering a newly expanded menu, so come on in to bowl a few frames and check out the renovations.



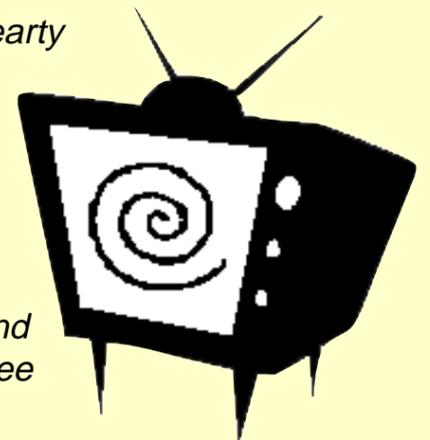
BONES TUESDAYS



The Kelley Club offers domino players a fun and challenging Tuesday night alternative. Come out every week for Bones Tuesdays starting April 15. The fun begins at 7 p.m., so bring a friend and your competitive spirit. Free bar snacks are available.

TV NITE THURSDAYS

Everybody could use a hearty laugh or two by Thursday. The Kelley Club offers an outlet for all that weekday stress. Come out every Thursday starting April 17 for a night of your favorite shows. Join your "Friends" and relax starting at 6:30 p.m. Free bar snacks are offered.



Easter 2003: April 20

Worship in the 6th ASG

Garmisch Chapel

- April 17: Catholic Mass (6 p.m.); Protestant video and communion (7 p.m.)
- April 18: Protestant service (noon); Catholic Mass (3 p.m.)
- April 19: Catholic Easter Vigil (8 p.m.)
- April 20: Sunrise service (7 a.m., Keane's Lodge)

Panzer Chapel

- April 16: Jewish seder meal (6 p.m.)
- April 18: Lutheran service (6:30 p.m.)
- April 20: Lutheran service (9 a.m.); Gospel service (10:45 a.m.); COGIC service (1 p.m.)

Patch Chapel

- April 18: Stations of the Cross (noon); Catholic Good Friday service (6 p.m.)
- April 19: Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass (7 to 9 p.m.)
- April 20: Catholic Mass (9 a.m.); Protestant service (11 a.m.); Praise & worship (6 p.m.)

Robinson Barracks Chapel

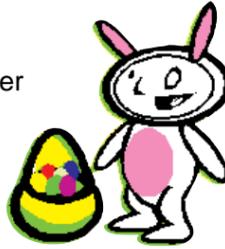
- April 20: Sunrise service (6:30 a.m.); Catholic Mass (11:30 a.m.)

For more information in Stuttgart call 430-5000/civ. 0711-680-5000.
In Garmisch call 440-2819/civ. 08821-750-819.



Youth Services events (April 19)

- **Easter Egg Hunt:** 10:30 a.m. to noon., Pete Burke Community Center
- **Easter Egg Hunt:** 1 p.m., Patch Barracks' Husky Field
- **Kids' Fest:** Noon to 2 p.m., Patch YS
- **Spring Carnival:** Noon to 4 p.m., Patch YS



Also, American Legion Stuttgart Post 6 is hosting an egg hunt April 20, 1 p.m., at the Back Lot Club.

Quiz: Holiday Traditions

Can you match the nations below with their Easter traditions?

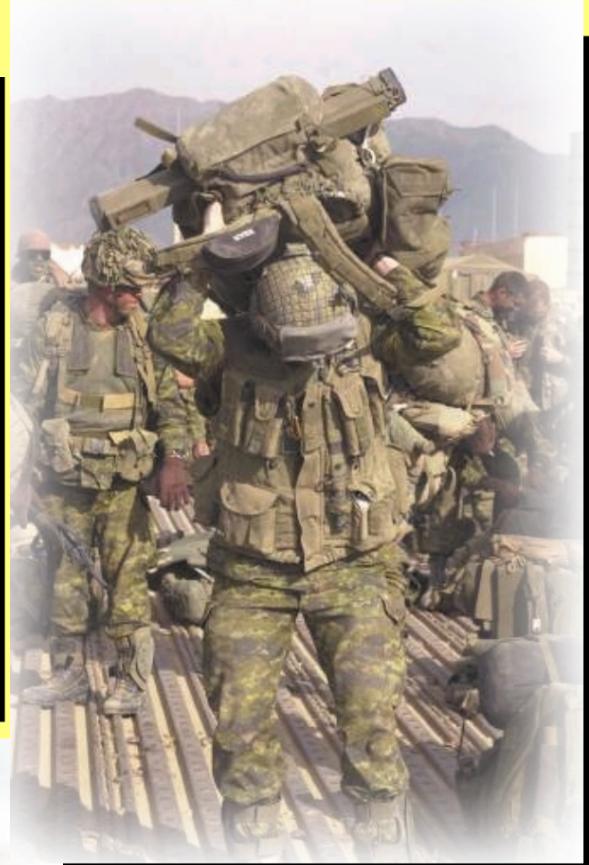
- | | | | |
|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| a. Brazil | c. Finland | e. Norway | g. Romania |
| b. Bulgaria | d. Mexico | f. Poland | h. Spain |

1. People here don't hide their eggs – they have egg fights. Also, the oldest woman in the family rubs the faces of the children with the first red egg she has colored – this symbolizes her wish that they have rosy cheeks, health and strength.
2. On Holy Thursday, people keep brew out side their doors for the witches. Also, no one uses knives or axes on that day, as it is believed that the cross was carved on Holy Thursday.
3. Every year since 1950 spectators have flocked to the village of Fazenda to view a passion play in which volunteers act out the arrest, trial and crucifixion of Jesus.
4. On Maundy Thursday a special "Dance of Death" is performed by men dressed as skeletons.
5. Children with sooty faces and scarves tied round their heads go begging. Little girls and sometimes even boys dressed as witches go from door to door, reciting good luck poems in return for money and sweets.
6. On this nation's most important Christian holiday, traditions representing a new beginning include wearing new clothes, cleaning the house and taking a ritual bath before church.
7. During the week before Lent, children smash eggs over each other's heads. Fortunately, these eggs are filled not with runny yolks but rather with small pieces of paper.
8. For over 800 years in this country Easter Monday has been "Switching Day," a time when boys swat their girlfriends with a small willow branch. On Easter Tuesday, the girls get even by swatting the boys.

Answers: 1-b; 2-e; 3-a; 4-h; 5-c; 6-g; 7-d; 8-f



Our thoughts and hearts



photos courtesy DoD Combat Camera

are always with you...